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A NEW SPECIES OF BASILODES FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES (NOCTUIDAE)

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SPECIMENS OF BASILODES[1] recently sent to me by Andre Blanchard of Houston, Texas proved to belong to an undescribed species. I take pleasure here in describing the species as new and naming it in honor of the collector.

Basilodes blanchardi n. sp.

Description:

Adult male. Size medium, fore wing length: 14-15 mm.

Upper surface of fore wing lemon-yellow, flecked with scattered white scales; coastal margin mixed black and white scaled; subcostal area white; cinnamon-brown (some scales light-tipped) spreading in from outer margin (as in most members of *B. rugifrons* group), hexagonal or quadrate macula of inner margin (typical of other members of *B. rugifrons* group) and other markings absent except for small caudo-basal area of brown, white-tipped scales; fringe double, inner row of black, white-tipped scales, outer row of grey, white-tipped scales; fringe of inner margin white.

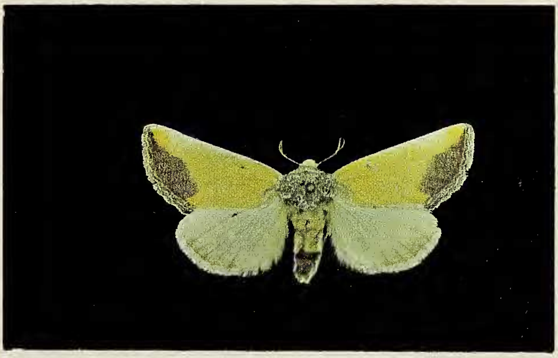

Fig. 1: *Basilodes blanchardi*, n. sp., paratype female, Basin, Big Bend N. P., Texas.

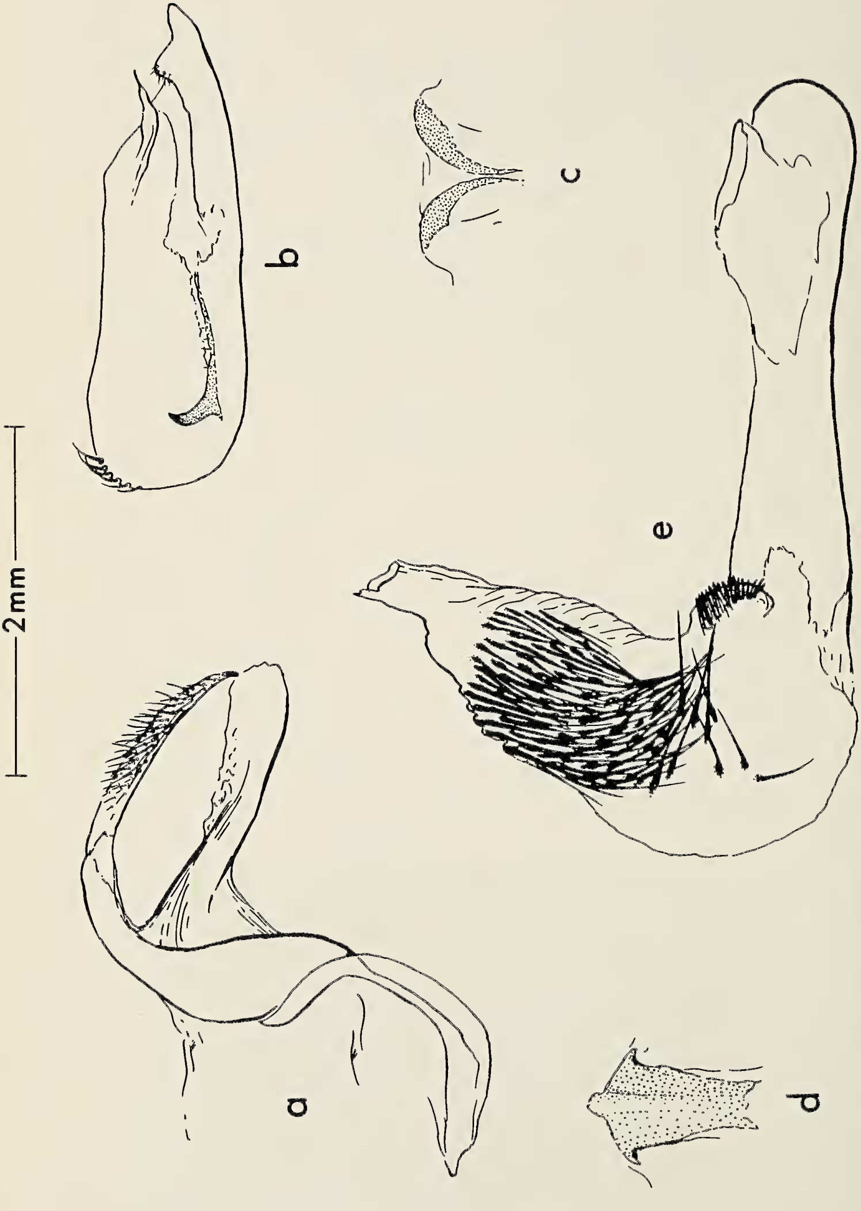

Fig. 2: *Basilodes blanchardi*, n. sp., male genitalic structures: (a) literal view of tegumen, vinculum, uncus etc., (b) inner view of valve, (c) anellus, (d) juxta and (e) inflated penis.

Upper surface of hind wing white, diffusing to light-brown distally; fringe white-tipped.

Under surface of fore wing suffuse light-brown, slightly darker in sub-median area.

Under surface of hind wing evenly creamy-white.

Vestiture of head light-yellow, an area of light-brown, white-tipped scales anterior to eye; scape and dorsum of antennae white-scaled; palpal scales grey-brown, white-tipped; thoracic scales very long, spatulate, grey-brown, white-tipped; pleural scales light-yellow; abdomen pale-yellow dorsally, murky grey-brown mid-ventrally.

Frontal protuberance moderately prominent, an inverted heart-shaped ring with a medium-sized ventral convexity.

Adult female. Essentially identical to male except for slightly larger size; fore wing length 15-16 mm. (Fig. 1).

Male and female genitalia: As figured (Figs. 2-3).

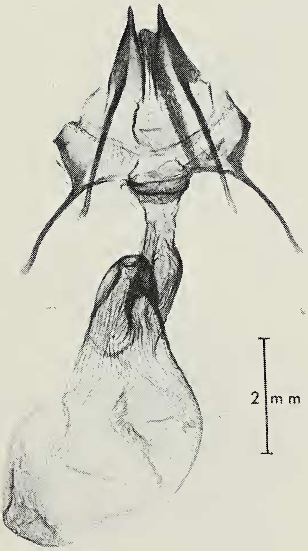

Fig. 3: *Basilodes blanchardi*, n. sp., female genitalia.

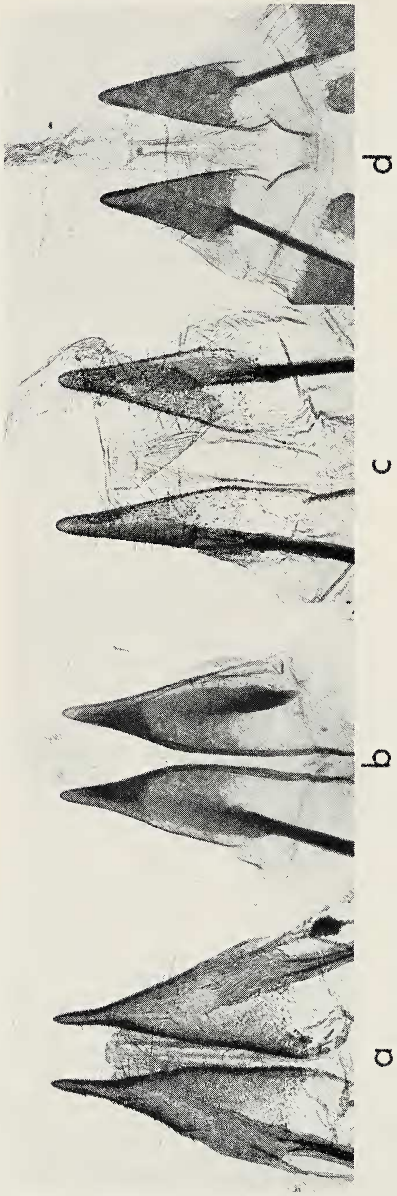

Fig. 4: *Basilodes blanchardi* (a) and related species, *B. rugifrons* (b), *B. sulphureus* (c) and *B. dyari* (d). Comparative anatomy of female ovipositor lobes.

Diagnosis:

Basilodes blanchardi is a member of the *B. rugifrons* group also including *rugifrons* (Grote, 1874), *dyari* (Hill, 1924), *sulphureus* (Neumoegen, 1882), *ruficeps* (Draudt, 1927), *colimae*[2] (Draudt, 1927), *intermixtus* (Dyar, 1918), and *mouris* (Dyar, 1912). It is readily distinguished superficially by the unique immaculate median field of the upper fore wing surface. The conspicuous hexagonal or quadrate brown spot ("hindmarginal spot" of Draudt) in this area midway along the inner margin usual for all the other above named species is absent.

Due to the lack of material of most of the members of the group (only *rugifrons, dyari* and *sulphureus* are represented in collections by more than a few specimens), it is impossible to fully diagnose *blanchardi* in regard to genitalic characters. On the basis of known character states for some of the species, the male genitalia do not present any strong diagnostic features. The group appears to be a complex of closely related forms differing little in the male genitalia. The number and distribution of cornuti on the penis vesica as well as other quantitative characters may be called upon to characterize the species when adequate material becomes available.

The female ovipositor lobes will also probably prove to be unique in regard to shape, distribution of setae, amount of sclerotization, etc. At least this is true when this structure is compared with *rugifrons, dyari* and *suphureus* (Fig. 4).

The *Basilodes rugifrons* group, including *blanchardi,* is decidedly in need of thorough taxonomic revision. Material has to be collected of the rare Mexican species and all species should be reared. Analysis of the geography and morphology of the group will probably reveal the need for some new synonymies and segregation of geographic subspecies (Hogue, 1963:78).

MATERIAL:

Holotype. ♂ : Carlsbad Caverns N.P., Eddy County, New Mexico. 17 September 1963 (A. & M.E. Blanchard) [L.A.C.M.].

Allotype. ♀ : White's City, Eddy County, New Mexico. 17 September 1963 (A. & M.E. Blanchard); with genitalia slide No.: CLH 641117-2 [L.A.C.M.].

Paratypes. 3 ♂ ♂ : Same locale and collectors as holotype. 17-18 September 1963; one wit hgenitalia slide No.: CLH 640225-1. 1 ♂ : Oak Spring, Big Bend N.P., Brewster County, Texas. 31 August 1964 (A. & M.E. Blanchard); with genitalia slide No.: CLH 641117-1. 1 ♀ : Basin, Big Bend N.P., Brewster County, Texas. 4 September 1964 (A. & M.E. Blanchard. 1 ♀ : Shelter Cave, Organ Mountains, Dona Ana County, New Mexico. 1 September 1930; with genitalia slide No.: CLH 640225-2. [L.A.C.M., A. Blanchard, U.S.N.M., A.M.N.H].

REFERENCES CITED

Hogue, C. L. 1963. A definition and classification of the tribe Stiriini (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). Contribs. Sci. L.A. County Museum No. 64, pp. 1-129.

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1. *Mr. Blanchard has also sent a specimen of another Basilodes worth mentioning here as it represents a new record for the United States.*
   Basilodes inquinatus Hogue, 1963. 1 : Welder Wildlife Foundation, 8 mi. NE Sinton, San Patricio County, Texas. 1 October 1964 (A. & M.E. Blanchard) [L.A.C.M.].
   The species was formerly known only from Mexico.
2. *I take this opportunity to correct an error in my recent paper on the Stiriini (Hogue, 1963:78) concerning this species. My statement, "Judging from the figure accompanying the original description, I guess that this species may be at most a variation or subspecies of the preceding species.", is impossible since there is, in fact, no illustration of colimae on plate 45, row b as stated the text. The species does seem to belong in the position I have given judging from the description.*

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